



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
125 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-3390 **TDD** (608) 267-2427 **FAX** (608) 267-1052
Internet Address: www.dpi.state.wi.us

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2003-38 B

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

CONTACT: Joseph Donovan, Communications Officer
(608) 266-3559 / joseph.donovan@dpi.state.wi.us

Wisconsin's ESEA accountability plan receives federal approval

Plan praised for collaboration with stakeholders

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster joined officials from the U.S. Department of Education and Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent William J. Andrekopoulos at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Milwaukee today for an event to announce approval of Wisconsin's accountability plan required under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

The state's plan underwent federal peer review on April 22 and was praised for the strong evidence used to support its accountability decisions and the collaboration with education stakeholders in developing the plan.

"The quick approval of Wisconsin's plan was the result of valuable input from a broad cross section of key stakeholders," Burmaster said. "I want to thank Department of Public Instruction staff and our collaborative partners from across the state for the countless hours spent ensuring that our accountability plan continues Wisconsin's strong tradition of providing quality education for all children while also meeting the requirements of ESEA."

Under ESEA, also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, all states must implement a statewide accountability system that measures yearly progress in reading and math based on statewide assessments and benchmarks that all schools must reach each year. Beginning in 2005-06, the federal law requires states to test every child in reading and math in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school. By 2014, all students must score proficient or better on statewide assessments in reading and math.

Wisconsin currently assesses all students in reading in grade three and reading and math in grades four, eight, and 10. The state plan calls for implementing additional testing of math in grade three and math and reading in grades five through seven by the 2005-06 school year. The plan also describes starting points for adequate yearly progress for schools and school districts, subgroup accountability, and additional indicators for determining adequate yearly progress.

(more)

“Our New Wisconsin Promise, which is working to close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students or children of color and their peers, is consistent with the intent of ESEA,” Burmaster said. “While I support the overall goal of the act, I’m still concerned with parts of the law that potentially have a negative impact on Wisconsin’s strong tradition of quality public education and local control. I will continue to stress to the U.S. Department of Education the importance of flexibility and respect for the uniqueness and strength of our current educational system.”

Burmaster further pledged to “work diligently with our state and federal partners to implement the major provisions of No Child Left Behind in a way that gives all children the maximum opportunity to achieve to their fullest potential.”

###

NOTE: The full text of Wisconsin’s ESEA accountability plan is available on the Department of Public Instruction website at: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/esea/pdf/wiaw.pdf>.